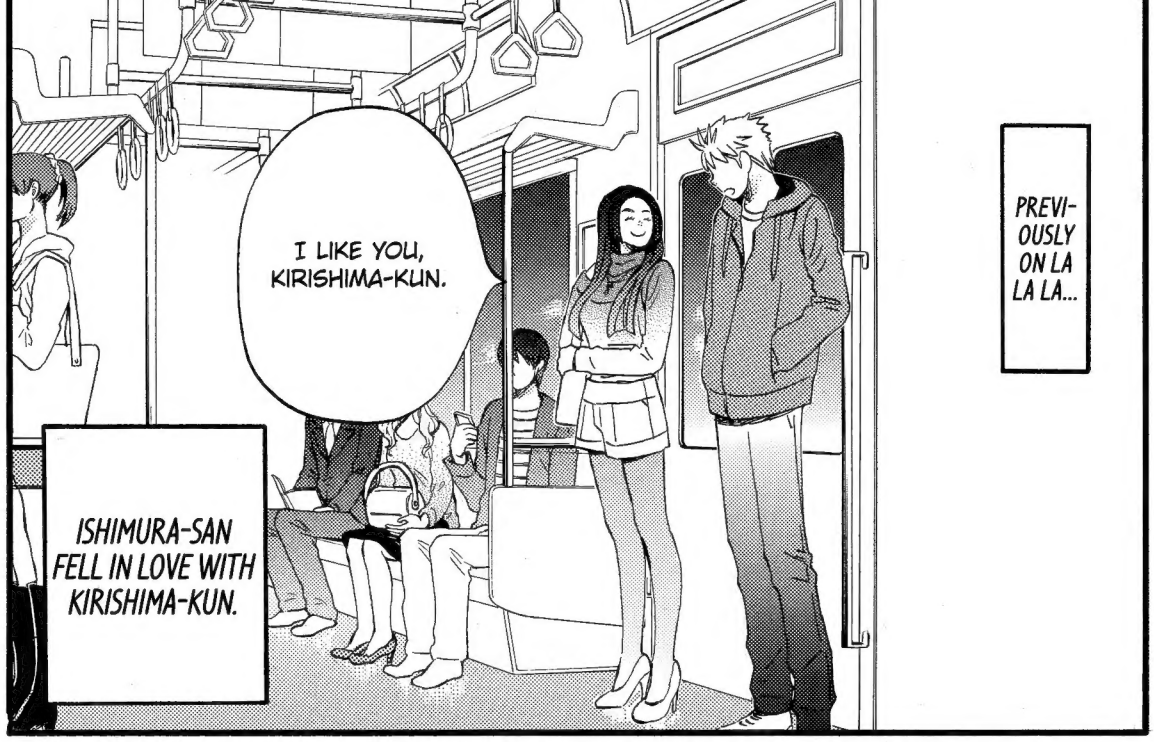
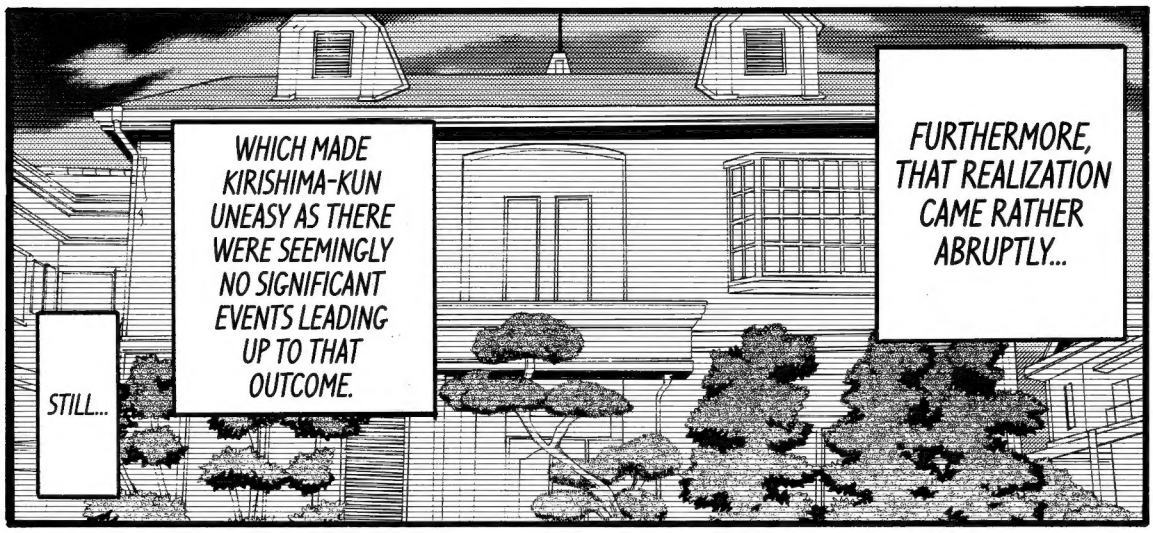
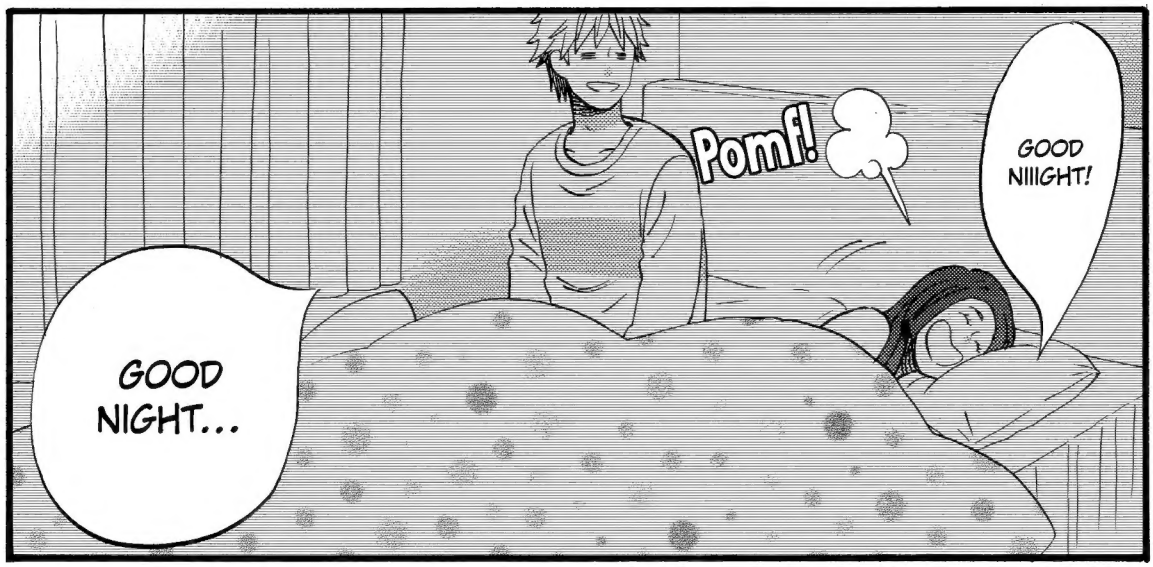
Chapters 24: Kirishima-kun And Ishimura-san Are A Married Couple

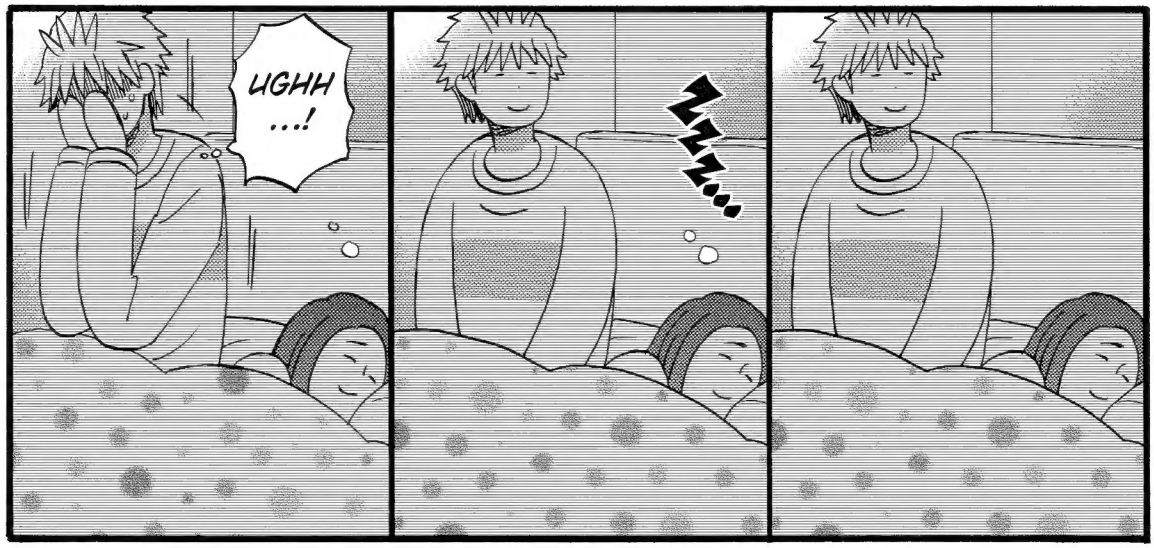

PREVIOUSLY ON LA LA LA...
I LIKE YOU, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
ISHIMURA-SAN FELL IN LOVE WITH KIRISHIMA-KUN.

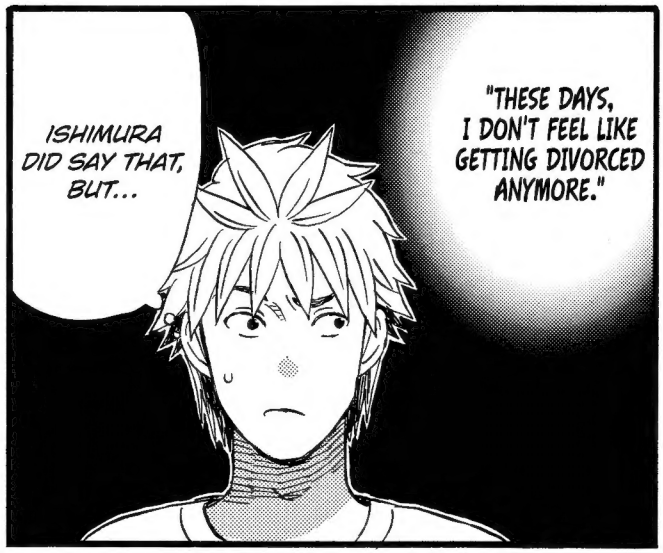

FURTHERMORE, THAT REALIZATION CAME RATHER ABRUPTLY...
WHICH MADE KIRISHIMA-KUN UNEASY AS THERE WERE SEEMINGLY NO SIGNIFICANT EVENTS LEADING UP TO THAT OUTCOME.
STILL...

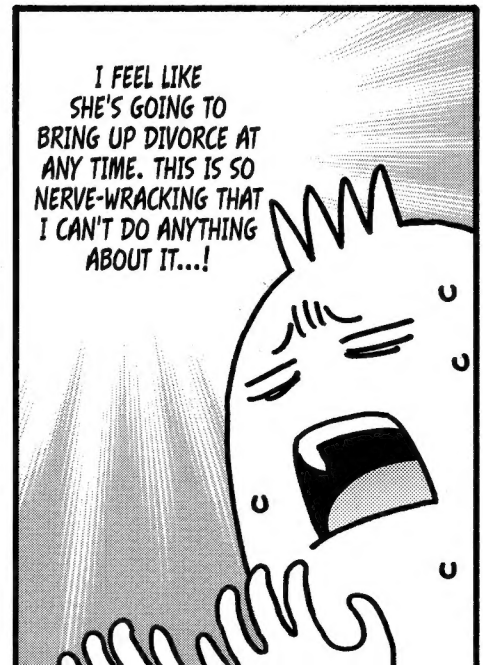
ISHIMURA-SAN...

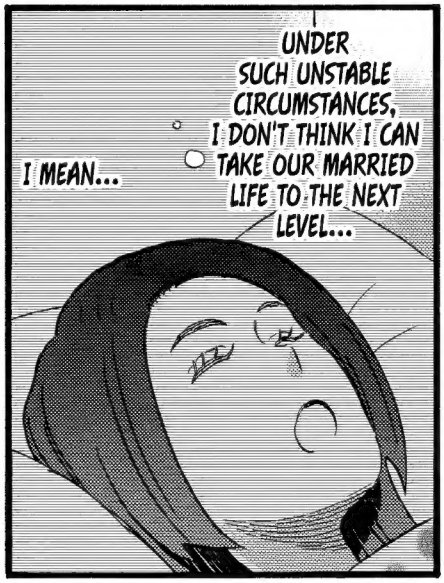
THE TWO FINALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. AND NOW...
KIRISHIMA-KUN...

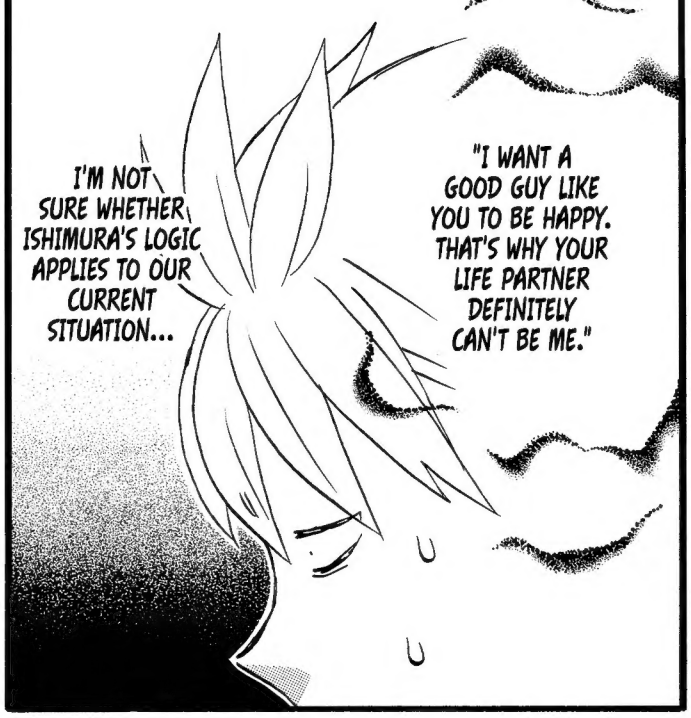

GOOD NIIIGHT!
Pom!
GOOD NIGHT...

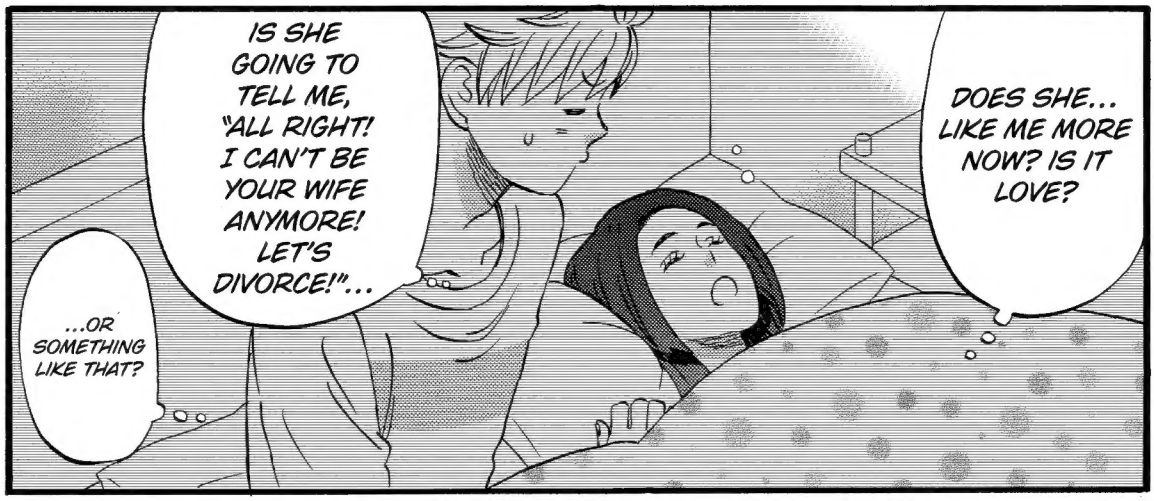

UGHH ...!
ZZZZ...

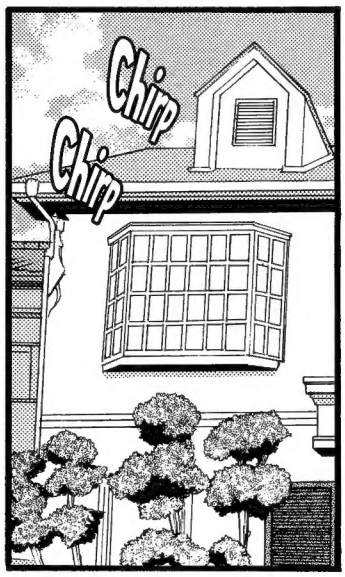

ISHIMURA DID SAY THAT, BUT...
"THESE DAYS, I DON'T FEEL LIKE GETTING DIVORCED ANYMORE."

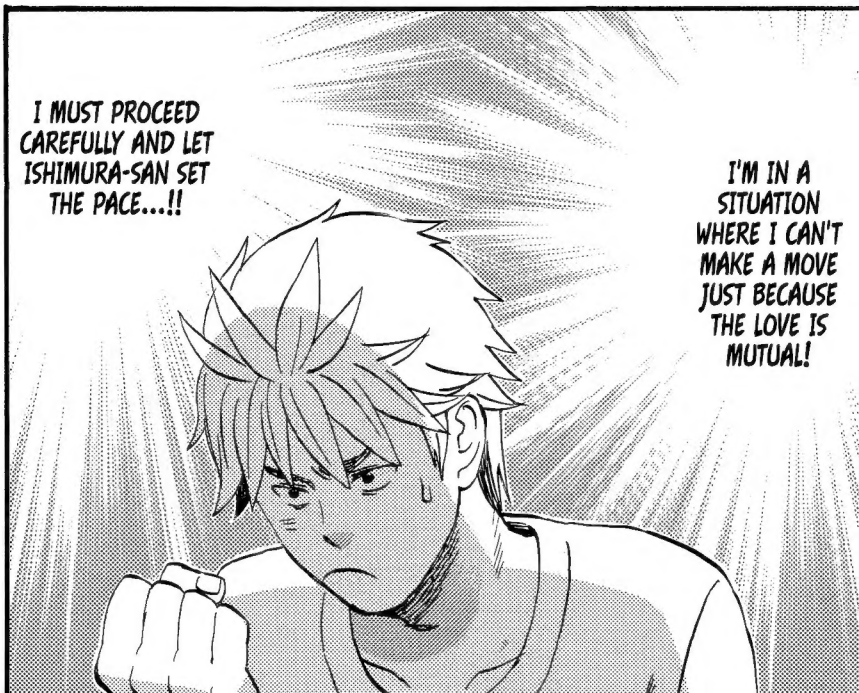

I FEEL LIKE SHE'S GOING TO BRING UP DIVORCE AT ANY TIME. THIS IS SO NERVE-WRACKING THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...!


UNDER SUCH UNSTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE OUR MARRIED LIFE TO THE NEXT LEVEL...
I MEAN...

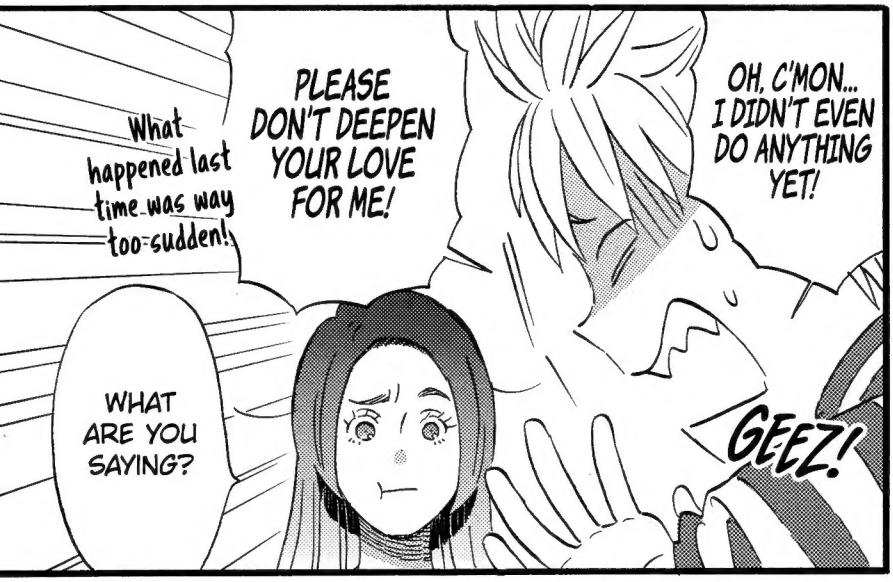

"I WANT A GOOD GUY LIKE YOU TO BE HAPPY. THAT'S WHY YOUR LIFE PARTNER DEFINITELY CAN'T BE ME."
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER ISHIMURA'S LOGIC APPLIES TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION...


DOES SHE... LIKE ME MORE NOW? IS IT LOVE?
IS SHE GOING TO TELL ME, "ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T BE YOUR WIFE ANYMORE! LET'S DIVORCE!"...
...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?


Chirp
Chirp

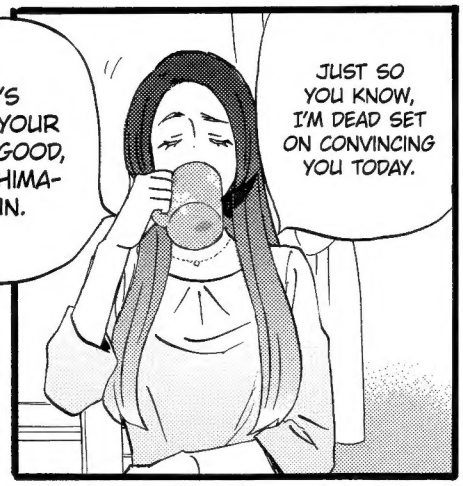

I MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY AND LET ISHIMURA-SAN SET THE PACE...!!
I'M IN A SITUATION WHERE I CAN'T MAKE A MOVE JUST BECAUSE THE LOVE IS MUTUAL!

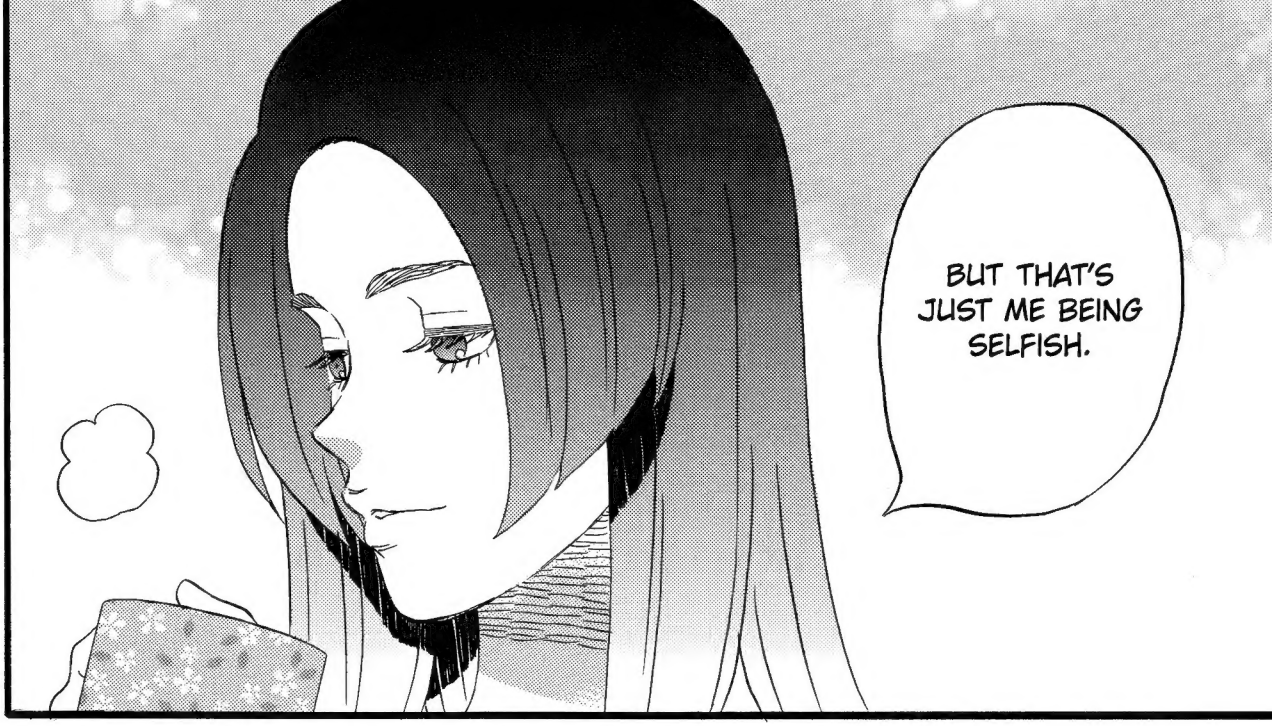
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DIVORCE?
Munch

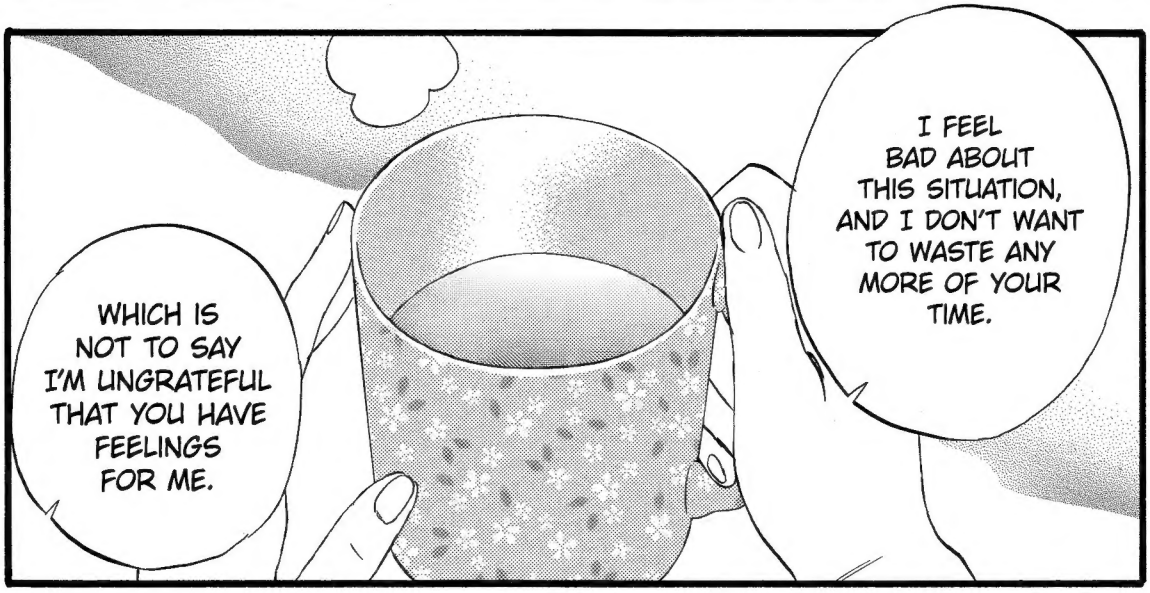

What happened last time was way too sudden!
PLEASE DON'T DEEPEN YOUR LOVE FOR ME!
OH, C'MON... I DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING YET!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
GEEZ!

Nghh...!

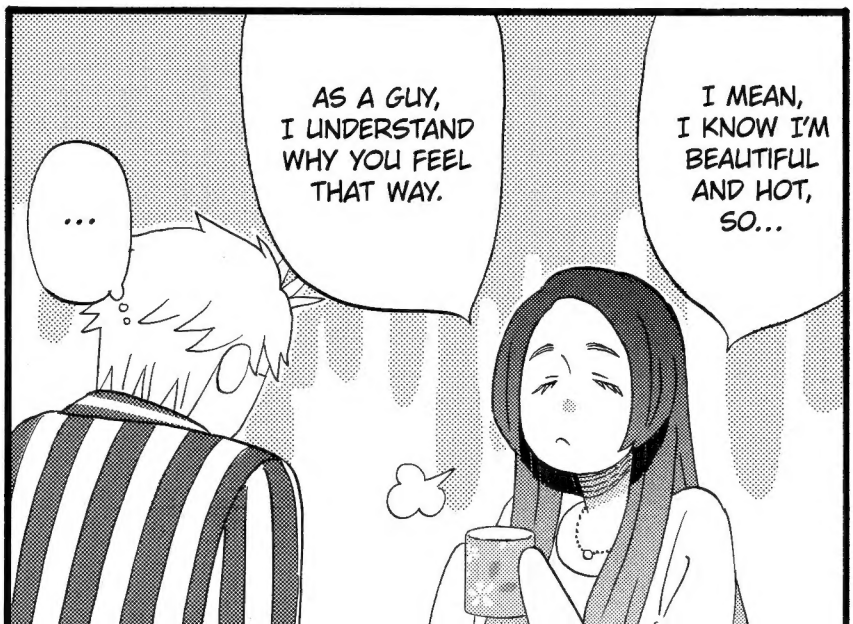
NO, NO! HOLD ON A SECOND... DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GETTING DIVORCED ANYMORE?!
I DID. THAT'S HOW I CURRENTLY FEEL.

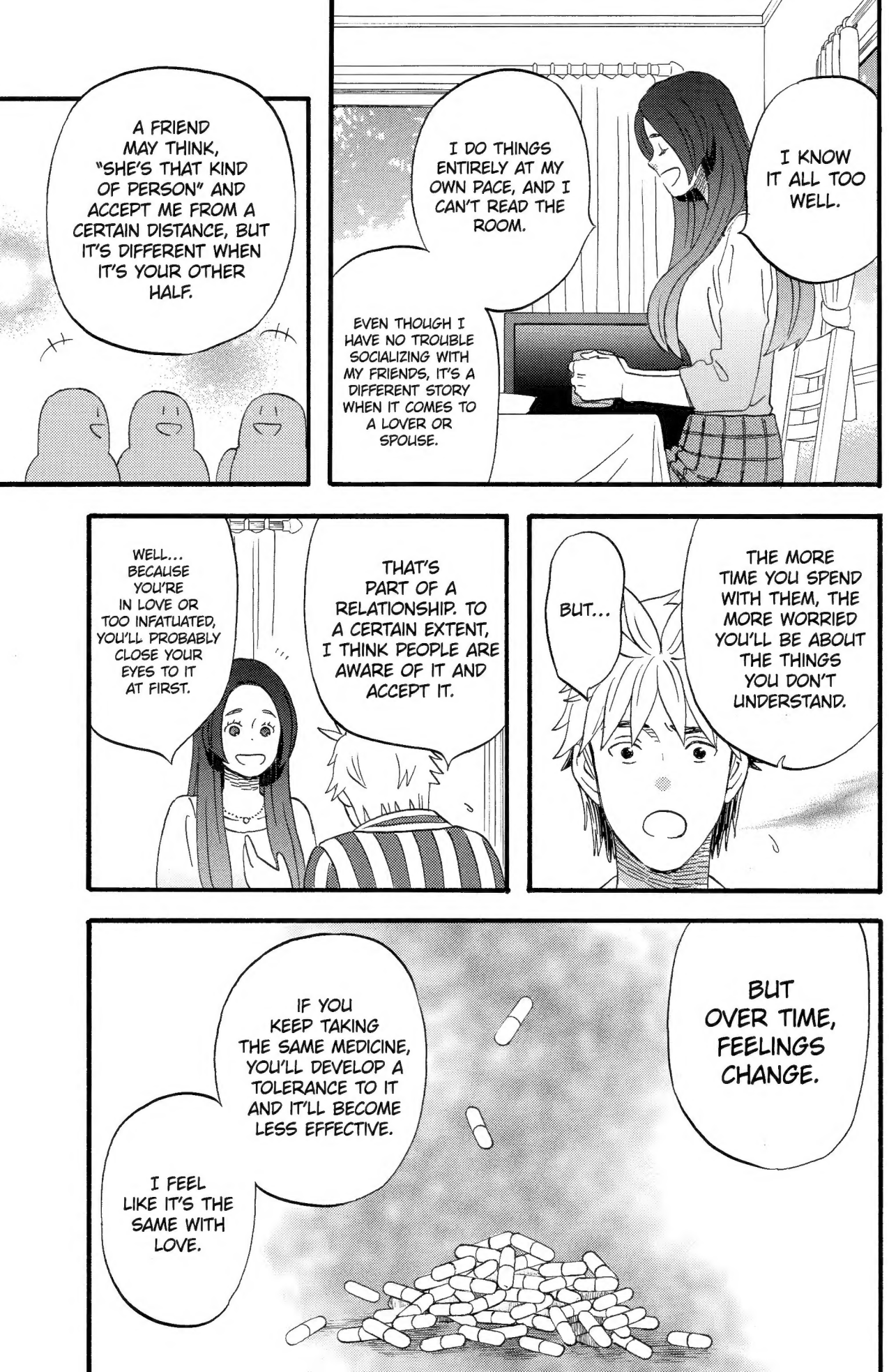

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M DEAD SET ON CONVINCING YOU TODAY.


BUT THAT'S JUST ME BEING SELFISH.


I FEEL BAD ABOUT THIS SITUATION, AND I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME.
WHICH IS NOT TO SAY I'M UNGRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

HOWEVER ...


I MEAN, I KNOW I'M BEAUTIFUL AND HOT, SO...
AS A GUY, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL THAT WAY.
...


A FRIEND MAY THINK, "SHE'S THAT KIND OF PERSON" AND ACCEPT ME FROM A CERTAIN DISTANCE, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN IT'S YOUR OTHER HALF.
I DO THINGS ENTIRELY AT MY OWN PACE, AND I CAN'T READ THE ROOM.
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO TROUBLE SOCIALIZING WITH MY FRIENDS, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN IT COMES TO A LOVER OR SPOUSE.
WELL... BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE OR TOO INFATUATED, YOU'LL PROBABLY CLOSE YOUR EYES TO IT AT FIRST.
THAT'S PART OF A RELATIONSHIP. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, I THINK PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF IT AND ACCEPT IT.
BUT...
THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND WITH THEM, THE MORE WORRIED YOU'LL BE ABOUT THE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU KEEP TAKING THE SAME MEDICINE, YOU'LL DEVELOP A TOLERANCE TO IT AND IT'LL BECOME LESS EFFECTIVE.
BUT OVER TIME, FEELINGS CHANGE.
I FEEL LIKE IT'S THE SAME WITH LOVE.

"WHY DIDN'T I CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE?"

"WEREN'T THERE OTHER THINGS I WANTED TO DO?"

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT ALL THE TIME AND EFFORT HAS BEEN FOR NAUGHT.

I KNOW YOU'LL EVENTUALLY GROW TIRED AND REGRET EVER BEING INVOLVED WITH SUCH A STRANGE WOMAN.

NO MATTER HOW ATTRACTIVE I LOOK ON THE OUTSIDE, THAT BEAUTY WILL FADE OVER TIME.

EVEN IF YOU SAY YOU LIKE ME NOW...

YOU GET IT, RIGHT?

SO PLEASE. IF WE'RE GOING TO DIVORCE, THE SOONER THE BETTER.

...

HOW LONG CAN YOU LOVE ME AFTER I'VE LOST MY SHINY EXTERIOR?

I'LL GET WRINKLES AND MY BIG BREASTS WILL SAG.

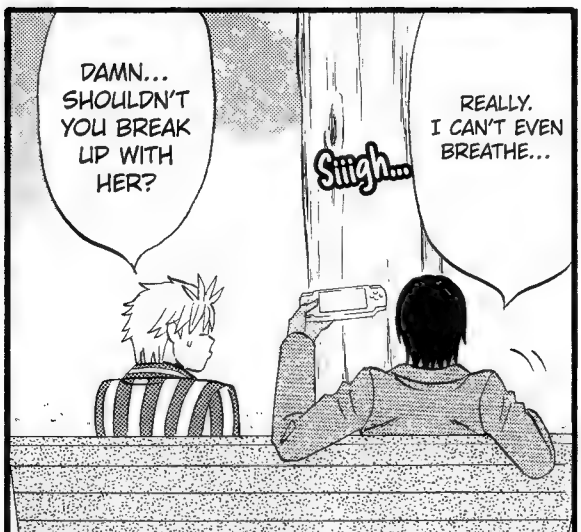
THINK ABOUT IT FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
WE CAN WRAP THIS UP WHEN I GET HOME FROM WORK.
Slam
SEE YOU LATER.
...

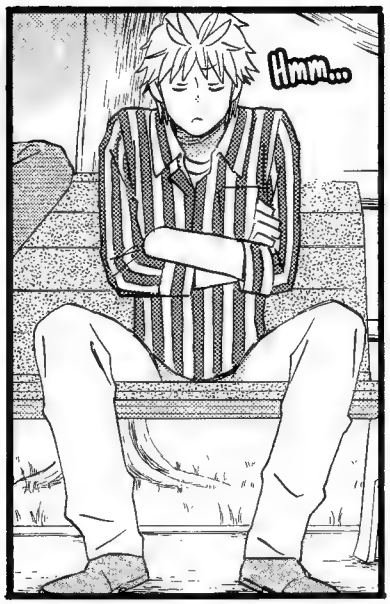
HMM... I DUNNO.
WILL I EVER GET HITCHED ...?
I DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT...
Crash!
THAT'S WRONG!

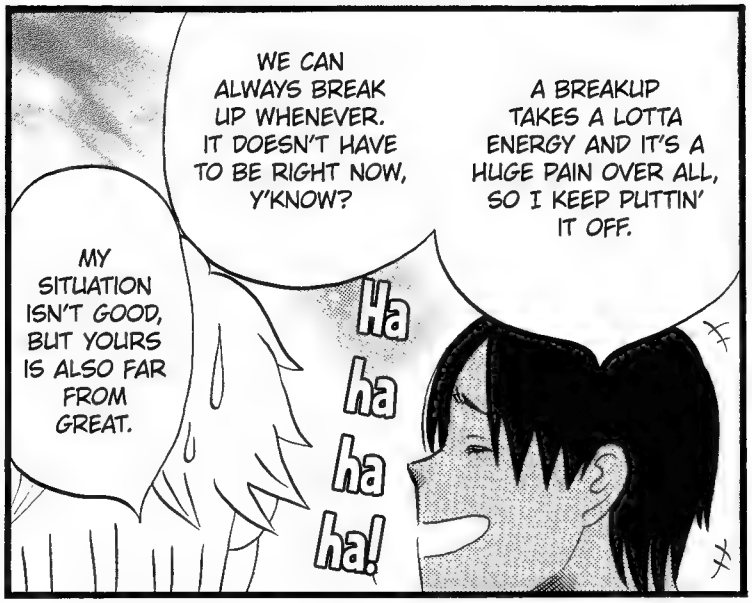
HEY... WHEN ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED, KIKUCHI?
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK? THAT CAME OUTTA NOWHERE.

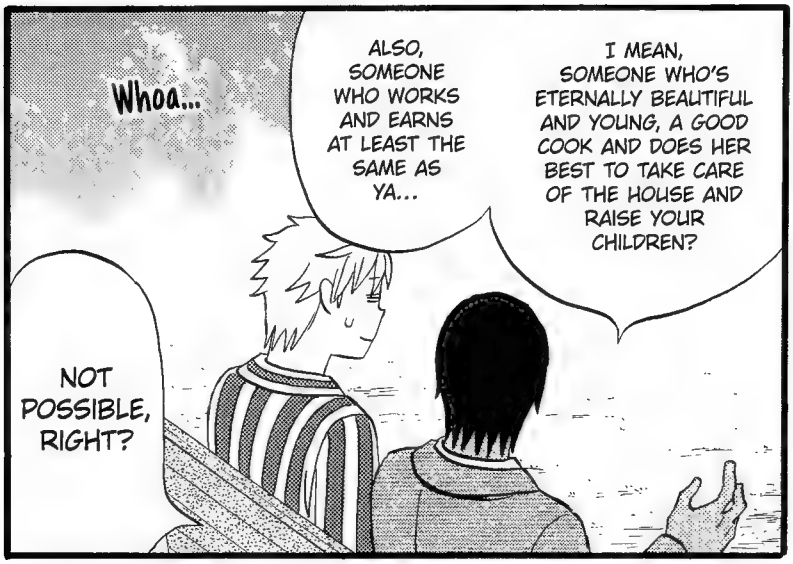
WOW, REALLY ...?
HER FACE AIN'T HALF BAD, BUT I'M ONLY ALLOWED TO GO OUT WITH THE GUYS FROM WORK...
SHE HAS ME ON A SHORT LEASH, SO I DUNNO ABOUT MARRIAGE...

HMM...
I NEED A GOOD EXCUSE FOR THAT...


DAMN... SHOULDN'T YOU BREAK UP WITH HER?
Siiigh...
REALLY. I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE...

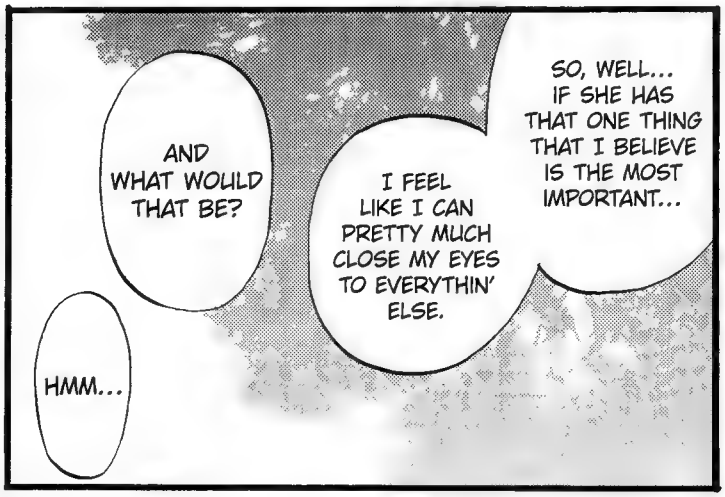

Hmm...


MY SITUATION ISN'T GOOD, BUT YOURS IS ALSO FAR FROM GREAT.
WE CAN ALWAYS BREAK UP WHENEVER. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT NOW, Y'KNOW?
A BREAKUP TAKES A LOTTA ENERGY AND IT'S A HUGE PAIN OVER ALL, SO I KEEP PUTTIN' IT OFF.
Ha ha ha ha!


Whoa...
NOT POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
ALSO, SOMEONE WHO WORKS AND EARNS AT LEAST THE SAME AS YA...
I MEAN, SOMEONE WHO'S ETERNALLY BEAUTIFUL AND YOUNG, A GOOD COOK AND DOES HER BEST TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE AND RAISE YOUR CHILDREN?

TALKIN' ABOUT IDEALS WON'T GET YA ANYWHERE.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK IS THE IDEAL WIFE?

...WHEN YA FEEL COMFORTABLE ABOUT SPENDIN' A LARGE PART OF YOUR TIME WITH HER.

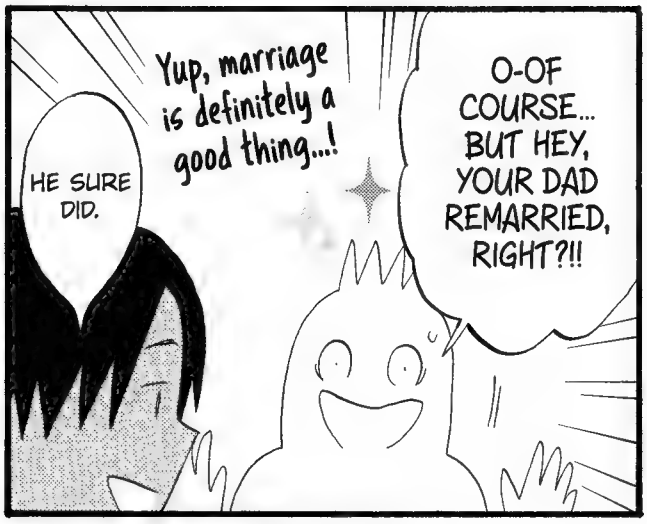

HMM...
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
I FEEL LIKE I CAN PRETTY MUCH CLOSE MY EYES TO EVERYTHIN' ELSE.
SO, WELL... IF SHE HAS THAT ONE THING THAT I BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT...

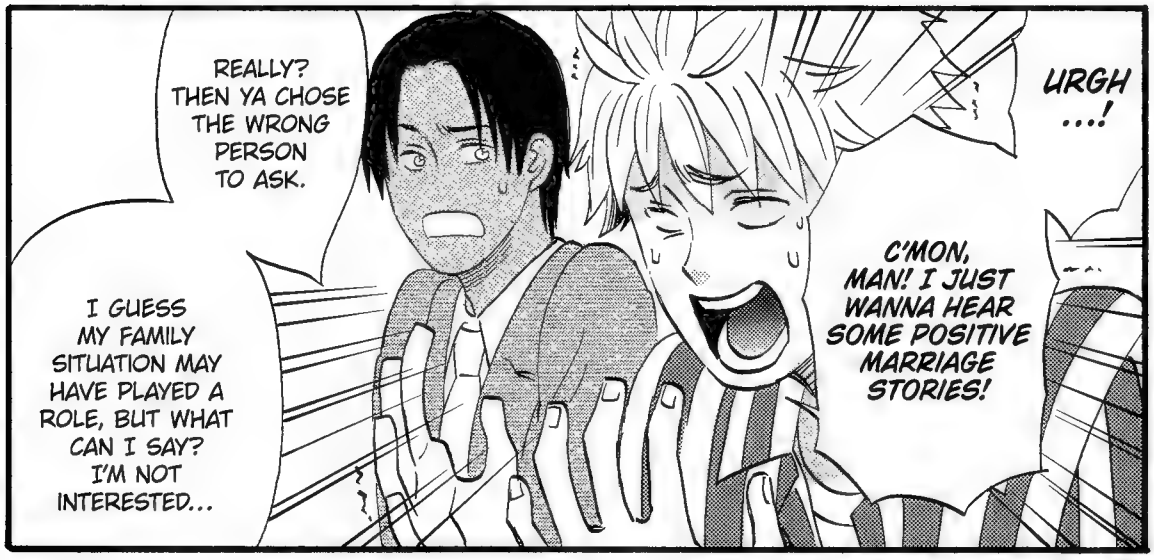
I DUNNO, IT FEELS LIKE MORE THOUGHT SHOULD GO INTO IT...
Whaaat...?
IF I MEET SOMEONE LIKE THAT, I'LL PROBABLY MARRY HER.
IN THE END, I THINK IT'S ALL ABOUT COMPATIBILITY.
Ha ha ha!
SO I TOTALLY GET WHY THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE JUST LIVIN' LIFE WITHOUT WANTIN' TO TIE THE KNOT.
...
THEY AIN'T PARTICULARLY INCLINED TO MARRY EITHER.
UNLIKE IN THE PAST, MOST PEOPLE NO LONGER FEEL OBLIGATED TO TAKE OVER THEIR FAMILY'S BUSINESS.
A PERSONALITY CLASH, MAYBE? I COULD USE THEIR CASE AS REFERENCE.
CAN I ASK YOU THE REASON WHY?
OHH, WELL...
OHH... YEAH, THEY DID. BUT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
HEY, KIKUCHI. YOUR PARENTS DIVORCED, DIDN'T THEY?

BUT IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW...
AND OUR FAMILY WAS TORN TO SHREDS.
MOM FELL IN LOVE WITH SOME SLEAZEBAG, THEN BECAME PREGNANT WITH HIS KID...

...
IT WAS THE USUAL. ONE OF THEM CHEATED.

...
That old hag stole his money and left.
THEY GOT SEPARATED LAST YEAR.


HE SURE DID.
Yup, marriage is definitely a good thing...!
O-OF COURSE... BUT HEY, YOUR DAD REMARRIED, RIGHT?!!


REALLY? THEN YA CHOSE THE WRONG PERSON TO ASK.
I GUESS MY FAMILY SITUATION MAY HAVE PLAYED A ROLE, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M NOT INTERESTED...
URGH ...!
C'MON, MAN! I JUST WANNA HEAR SOME POSITIVE MARRIAGE STORIES!

STILL... I DO THINK A STRANGE MARRIAGE LIKE YOURS IS INTERESTING.
IT MAY BE CHALLENGIN', BUT IT LOOKS FUN.
WHEN I LOOK AT IT, I FEEL LIKE IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD TO GET MARRIED.
I UNDERSTAND ISHIMURA-SAN IS DOING THIS ENTIRELY OUT OF CONCERN FOR MY WELL-BEING, BUT I CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH IT.
UM... WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF DIVORCE, THOUGH.
Ha ha ha!

THAT'S NORMAL, BUT NOT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS IT THE SAME WAY.

WHEN AN UNCONVENTIONAL PERSON LIKE HER IS PAIRED WITH A NORMAL AND WELL-ADJUSTED PERSON, IT MAKES SENSE SHE'D FEEL REJECTED BY THAT NORMALCY AND DOUBT WHETHER OR NOT SHE FITS IN.

SNIP SNIP SNIP

I CAN'T TRULY SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT MY FEELINGS FOR HER WON'T CHANGE ONE DAY.

TOSS

BESIDES ...

Snip

THOSE WEDDING VOWS OF ETERNAL LOVE ONE EXCHANGES WITH THEIR SPOUSE DON'T FEEL REALISTIC.

You're being laid off? That totally sucks.

Huh? No way, dude...

BESIDES... LOOK AT MY OWN EXAMPLE. MY GIRLFRIEND, WHO I THOUGHT WAS TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH ME, DUMPED ME AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT AFTER I WAS LAID OFF.

SEVERING YOUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE A BREAKUP IS UNAVOIDABLE IN THE FUTURE...

HONESTLY, THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME.

STILL...

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT THE WHOLE DAY.

I DON'T WANT A DIVORCE.

YOU TOLD ME THAT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS INEVITABLY CHANGE, RIGHT?

IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF I MEET AND FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN THE FUTURE...

IN THE END, THE BREAKUP CYCLE WILL REPEAT ITSELF.

NOT NOW.

...

"NOT NOW?"

"WE CAN ALWAYS BREAK UP WHENEVER. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT NOW, Y'KNOW?"

I TOLD KIKUCHI THAT HIS SITUATION WASN'T GREAT, BUT...

...HRM.

I SUPPOSE SO.

BESIDES ...

THIS SOLUTION MAY BE PERFECTLY IN LINE WITH ISHIMURA-SAN'S REASONING...!!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?!

IN OUR CASE IN PARTICULAR...

WE CAN ALWAYS GET A DIVORCE WHENEVER.

Bdmp

TRUE, WE CAN GET A DIVORCE AT ANY TIME.

Bdmp

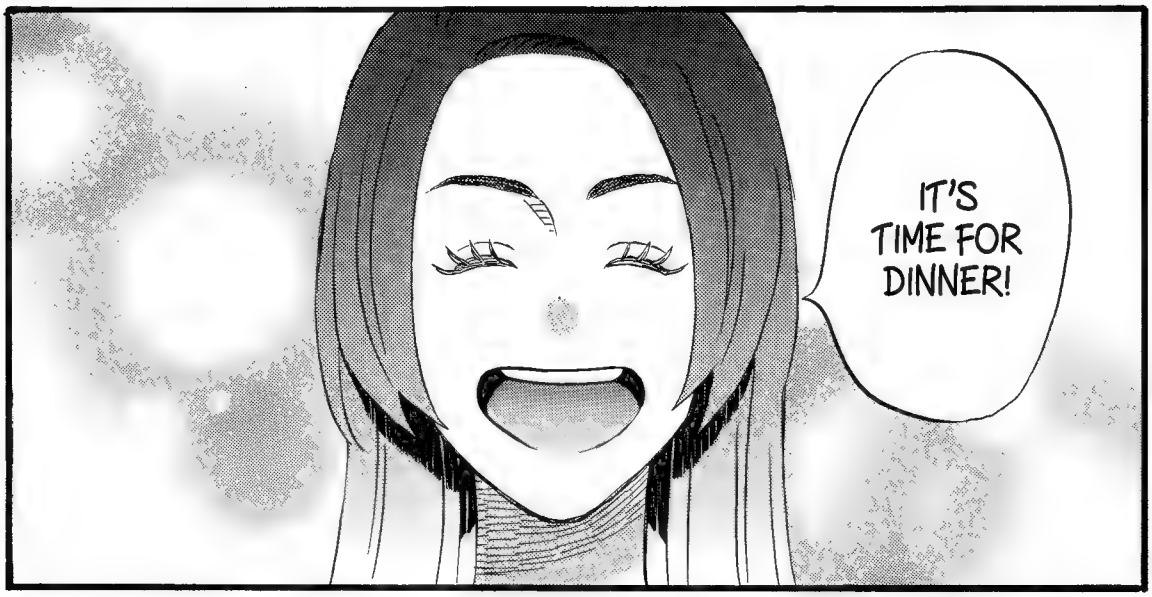
LIKE YOU SAID, I GUESS IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NOW...

...

...

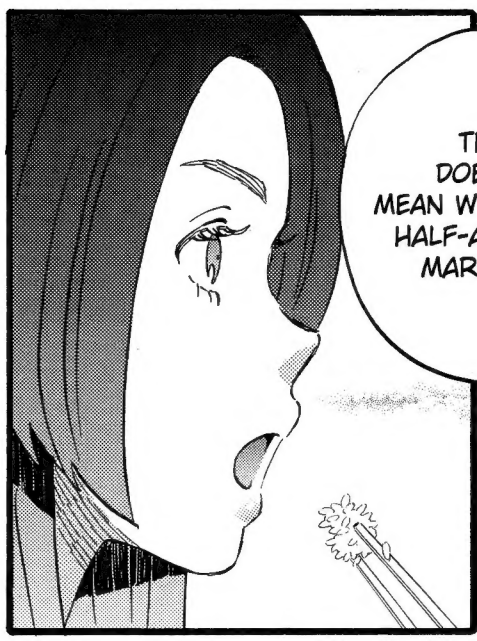
...HRMM.

...ALL RIGHT.
IN THAT CASE...
I GUESS...


IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!

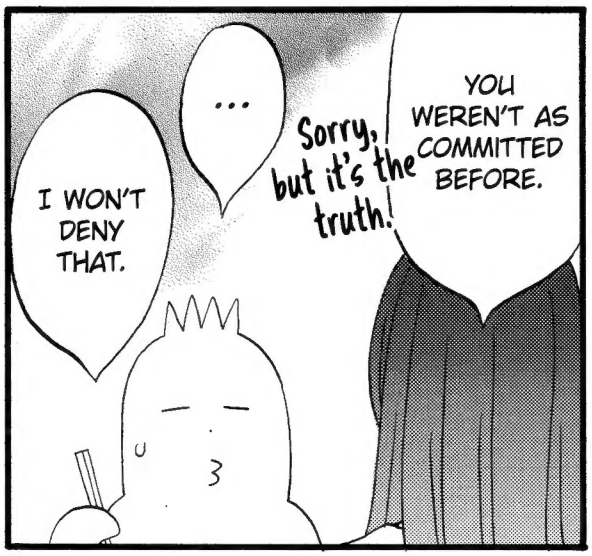
...BY THE WAY.
HM?
MUNCH
MUNCH

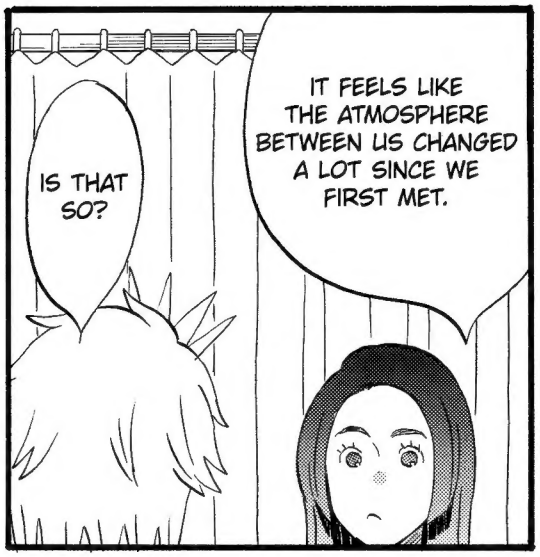
GOT IT!


THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULD HALF-ASS OUR MARRIAGE.

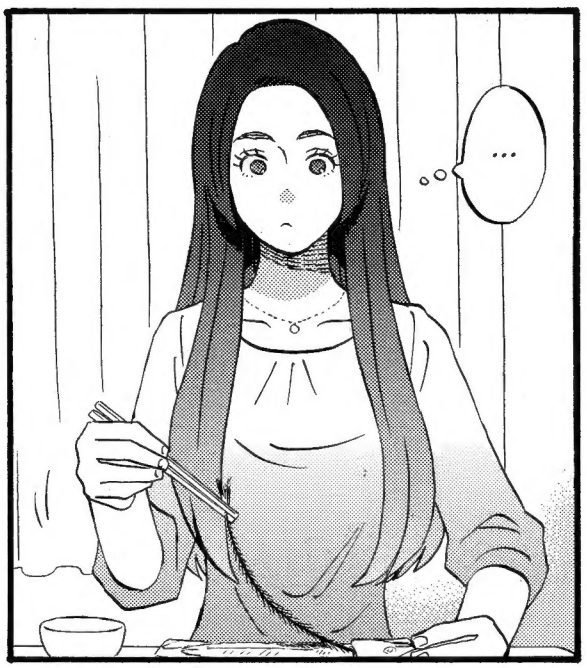
JUST BECAUSE WE AGREED TO DIVORCE AT ANY TIME...

...
MUNCH
MUNCH
I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND.
Hmph!
Hmph!
IF I'M GOING TO DIVORCE YOU SOMEDAY ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.


YOU WEREN'T AS COMMITTED BEFORE.
Sorry, but it's the truth!
...
I WON'T DENY THAT.

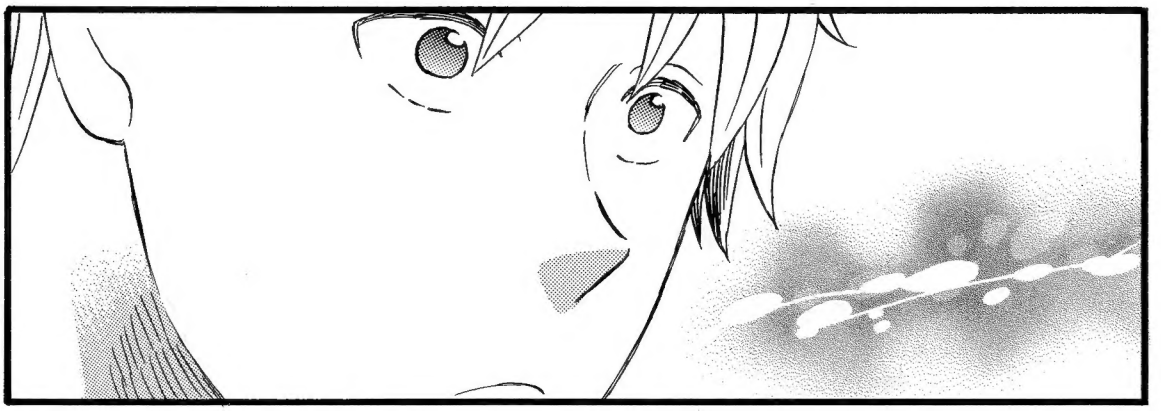

IT FEELS LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN US CHANGED A LOT SINCE WE FIRST MET.
IS THAT SO?

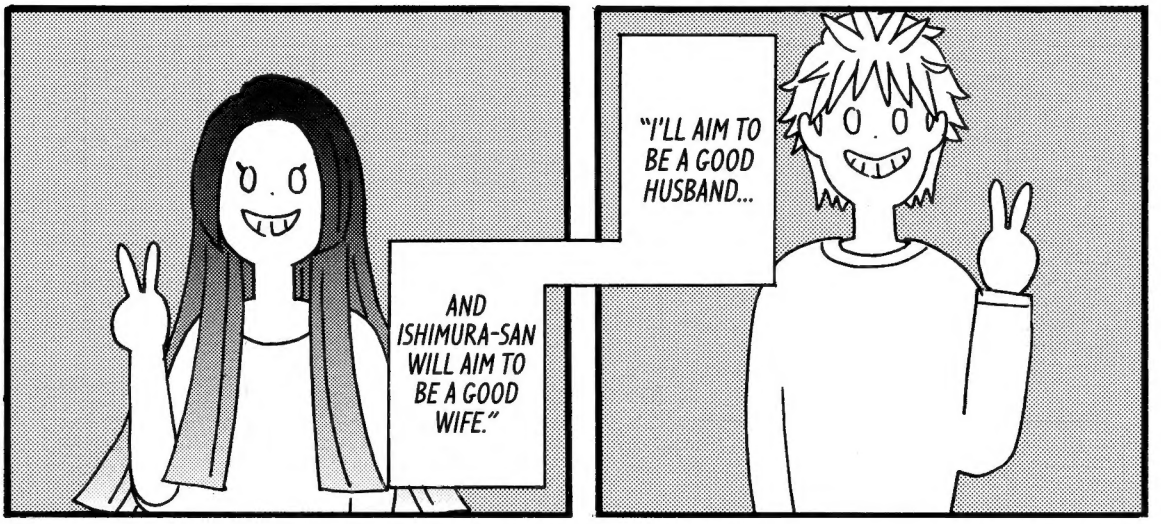
THAT SAID... IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE, THEN IT'S NOT FAIR IF I DON'T DO MY BEST, TOO.


...

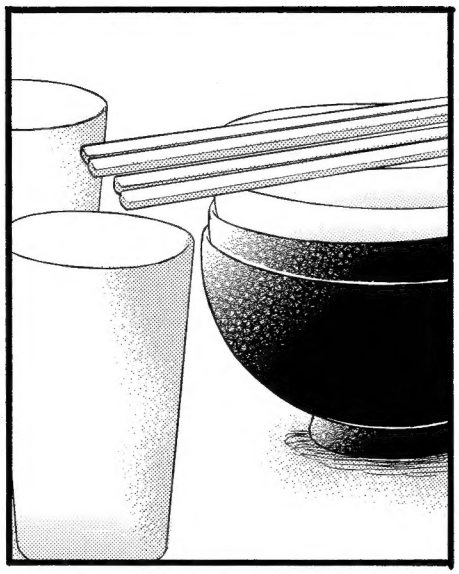
EVEN IF... WE'LL GET DIVORCED ONE DAY.

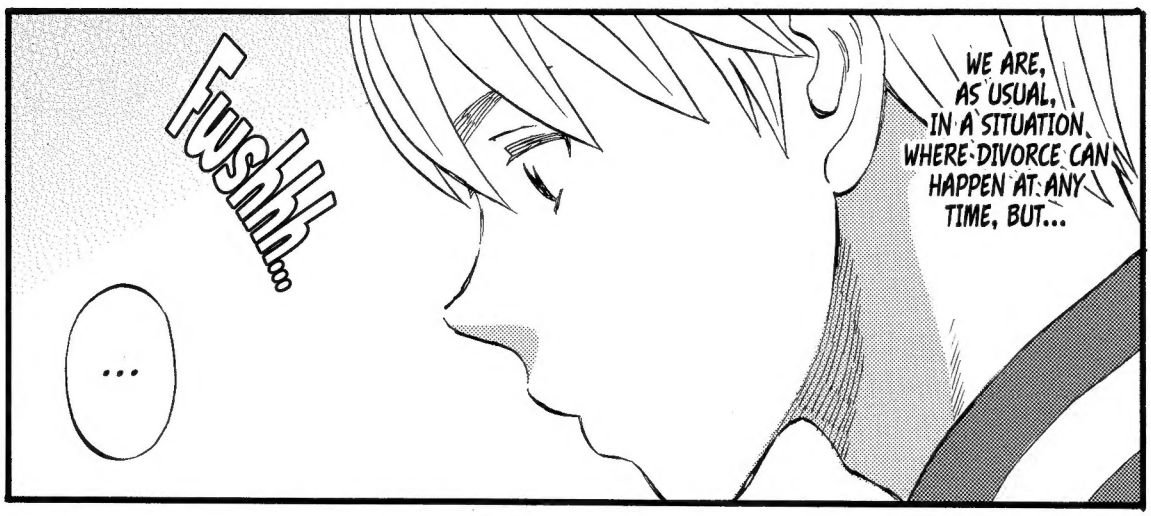
UNTIL THEN, I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE A GOOD WIFE.




"I'LL AIM TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND...
AND ISHIMURA-SAN WILL AIM TO BE A GOOD WIFE."

Fwshh...
Clack
Clack




Fwshh...
...
WE ARE, AS USUAL, IN A SITUATION WHERE DIVORCE CAN HAPPEN AT ANY TIME, BUT...

...THAT'S WHAT KIRISHIMA THOUGHT THAT NIGHT.
WE'RE NOT THAT BAD OF A MATCH, ARE WE?